



Summer/Winter Gasoline Guidelines

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Summer/Winter Gasoline Guidelines

Fuel suppliers with 10,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are required to report their emissions completely and accurately to Ecology using the Fuel Supplier Reporting Tool developed to support [WAC 173-441¹](#). Part of the reporting requirement includes differentiating between summer and winter gasoline.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the volatility of gasoline in the summer to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and the formation of ground-level ozone. Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) is a common measure of gasoline volatility, where lower numbers correspond to lower fuel volatility. In the summertime, EPA limits the RVP to a maximum of 9 psi (pounds per square inch). A 1 psi waiver is allowed for 10% ethanol by volume gasoline blends.

There are more strict limits (7.8 psi) in certain federally designated volatility ozone nonattainment areas. Currently, none of these zones are located in Washington state.

Table 1. Summertime Federal Regulations on Reid Vapor Pressures in Washington State

RVP for 10% ethanol blend	RVP for all other gasolines
10 psi	9 psi

- Summer fuel coincides with the period during which the federal EPA volatility limits are in effect nationwide: May 1 to Sept. 15 for “all regulated parties except retailers and wholesale purchaser-consumers”.
- June 1 to Sept. 15 for “all regulated parties including retailers and wholesale purchaser-consumers”.

Reporting Guidelines

1. Fuel suppliers should report summer or winter gasoline based on the fuel specifications received at the time of purchase. Bills of lading accompanying gasoline deliveries often certify the gasoline delivered as compliant with Federal EPA volatility limits during the summer when these limits are in effect.

2. If records containing this information are not available, fuel suppliers may differentiate summer and winter fuel based on the delivery dates. **Report fuel imported May 1 through Sept. 15 as summer fuel. Report fuel imported at all other times of the year as winter fuel.**

Resources:

[Gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure | US EPA²](#)

[Federal Gasoline Regulations | US EPA³](#)

¹ <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-441>

² <https://www.epa.gov/gasoline-standards/gasoline-reid-vapor-pressure>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/gasoline-standards/federal-gasoline-regulations>